

THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONS

WHILE the onward march of victory brings the end of fighting nearer, the four chief United Nations, meeting at Dumbarton Oaks, have evolved a plan for the future of world order. For there is much more to be achieved than military victory. The world is waiting for a new proclamation of hope. It awaits to see the opening of the new road which will lead to a permanent peace and happiness for all men and to hear of the kind of organisation which will ensure it.

A part of that proclamation was given in the Moscow agreement of November 1943 when the Governments of the Four Powers recognised

the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organisation based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states and open to all such states, large or small, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Now that victory is opening up the road to peace men are asking to see a little way down it; to catch a glimpse of the hills and valleys, and something of the warmth of the sunlight which plays on them.

A New League of Nations

Towards this vital exploration the United Nations have now set their faces, knowing that it will call for the same resolution and fortitude as the winning of the war. We are in fact now in the early days of the foundation of a new League of Nations. Its proposed name, The United Nations, is different, but its purpose is the same. The very mention of the old name calls up the aspirations of twenty years. It was to that name that millions of ordinary people throughout the world gave their heart and loyalty. It stirred in them a passion for peace and brotherhood and gave millions an ideal and a policy in world affairs. The League was not really tried. Men went to Geneva to its councils but went unprepared to make the League's decisions effective. The nations paid lip service but were not ready to give life service to make the ideals come true.

THE new organisation, unlike the old, must include all nations. There must be no absentees from its council chambers. Their peoples must see to it that no excuse is allowed to prevent any nation from playing its responsible part in the management of The United Nations. Civilisation and order, life and happiness, and the foundation of decent existence depend upon the new league being an active league in which every nation is represented. That means that those nations which have challenged the peace of the world, through their present misguided rulers, must be brought into the fellowship of peace-loving nations as soon as they have proved themselves worthy.

We Must Be Practical

The new league must be a powerful organisation, too. Whether it is to have its own equipment of arms, or to be able to call on the armaments of the countries making up its membership, is a point that the council chamber must decide. But experience demands a league which can enforce its decisions.

So infinite and complicated are the issues confronting the world that no league can settle them out of hand. We must be hard and

practical in this day of high hopes and turn our faces away from mere sentiment and dreams to look at our world as it is. We want an organisation which will be the watchful guardian of the world's nations to see that the treaties and pacts they make are carried out to the letter. It must be a league which will see that sacred obligations are not treated as mere scraps of paper; a league which will remind the nations that pacts and promises are honourable and binding and will continually keep their leaders faced with duties as well as hopes, with work to be done as well as speeches to be made.

Hard Work and Deep Loyalty

This new league will maintain the world's hopes only if it has the will to see to it that the world really strives for peace and order. The new league will demand hard work and deep loyalty from all its members, and, above all, it will demand the co-operation and power of the four great nations who have the power to keep world order. Let the new league secure from the start a sublime virtue the old one never had, the unlimited loyalty of the great nations and their pledged readiness to enforce its decisions, if necessary, by the power of arms.

BUT the new league will require something more than the membership of all nations, the power of arms, and the will to make it work. It must have the machinery of change within its constitution, so that rearrangement and adaptability are provided for. We want something human, not an inflexible machine. It must be sensitive to the ebb and flow of world opinion and its courts must be open wider to the new aspirations of future generations. We must hand on to our children not a cold institution but a living organisation in tune with the changing generations and eager to shape its policies with the march of new men.

Only such a body will be ample enough to embrace all the world's peoples. It must be universal, representing equally North, South, East, and West, every corner of the globe, and so conceived by the great nations that it recognises the just place of the smaller ones. It will be a human league, also, if it goes onward from decision to decision and does not attempt to settle all problems and straighten out all entanglements at one swoop.

A Truly Human Instrument

The map of the world is again being unrolled in a new fashion; but it is not only in geography that the world is changing but in the far more fundamental things of men's minds and spirits. There the deep revolutions are in progress. No one can go back to 1939. The old ideas of security are gone, and we are living through "a fluid state." We need a world organisation which will shape our world instruments not in terms of the past, but in true accord with the present, and in expectancy of the future. Let us not have a ready-made league, but one which men can mould and fashion as they proceed to live and work with it. Only by that means shall we obtain a truly human instrument which will serve the ends of living men and be a true glory to God and the hope of the world He created.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER
EVERY TUESDAY 3d
POSTAGE Inland 1d Abroad 4d
No 1335
FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



Good Work

A member of the WAAF at work on an aeroplane engine at a flying-training maintenance unit

TO GUARD AGAINST MEASLES

EVERYONE by now must know the posters which urge every Mother to protect her child against diphtheria by the use of diphtheria serum. The idea was first tried out in the United States with the most encouraging results before it was adopted here.

Now another serum is being advocated there to protect against another great enemy of children—measles. The serum was found in a curious way. American citizens were asked to give their blood for transfusion to wounded soldiers, and, like British citizens, they responded

generously. Now, any blood donor who has had measles keeps in his blood always an antidote to preserve him from a second attack. Such blood examined at the American Red Cross Hospital has yielded the new immune globulin serum which acts as a preventive of a mild attack of measles.

The serum is at present reserved for the fighting forces, but as soon as possible it will be made available for all children, and even for adults, at a very low price, because it has been decided that no one will be allowed to make a profit from it.

The Toad With a Lively Load

THE Surinam toad is the most famous of all toads, and fortunate are those CN readers who have seen one.

At the US Natural History Museum they have a Surinam toad that after a lapse of ten years has again performed the meritorious feat of hatching her eggs on her back. When they have been laid she collects them, with the aid of her husband, and gets them on her back where

they become covered with a thin envelope of her skin.

These toads live in the water, so the task is not so difficult as it sounds. There are some 30 to 40 of these sealed pockets and there they remain on Mother Surinam's back till the eggs become tadpoles which push aside the thin lids of their filmy cradle and, with all the enthusiasm of youth, take to the water like their parents.

ATHENS, CITY OF FREEDOM

GREECE is being liberated from the yoke of the Hun. Already big tracts of that heroic land are under the control of patriots, and with the arrival of Allied forces on Greek islands, on the Greek mainland, and in Albania, the Nazi rule of oppression there will soon be at an end.

WHILE the island of Samos, close to Turkey, was being captured from the Italian Fascists left there by the Germans, the important port of Patras in the north-west Peloponnese was seized, the German garrison leaving so hastily that the loyal harbour-master was able to remove the demolition charges from the quays.

Corinth was quickly captured, though the Nazis had time to block the four-mile ship canal linking the Gulf of Corinth with the Ionian Sea, a waterway which, completed 51 years ago, has brought Athens many hours nearer its markets in Western Europe. But this was a very small check.

As for Athens itself, its liberation will be seen by the rest of the world as a glorious sign of the times; for the thought of Athens in chains is abhorrent to all free men.

Athens, indeed, has always been the home of the free. It was the first source of intellectual freedom 2200 years ago, and the noble words and spirit of Socrates still live. Philip of Macedon, the Romans, the Franks, the Venetians, and the Turks conquered the body of Athens, but never her soul.

She was, indeed, destined to rise again as our great poet of freedom, Shelley, prophesied over a century ago:

*Another Athens shall arise,
And to remoter time
Bequeath, like sunset to the
skies,
The splendour of its prime.*

True, when in 1833, the Great Powers of Europe finally delivered Athens from the Sultan's tyranny, the once-supreme intellectual capital of the world had shrunk into a shabby, uncouth village. Even 40 years ago her population was no larger than that of Norwich. Today, with her adjoining port of Piraeus, the capital of Greece has nearly a million inhabitants, with commercial and industrial resources as fine as any in the Mediterranean. And still she cherishes that noble spirit of freedom which lit the first lamps in the Western world.

That was the Greek spirit, setting men's hearts afire all over the world, generation by generation, even while Athens itself in the material sense, was cast down into degradation, subjection, oblivion. It flamed anew into victory in the field against Mussolini, it made fiery challenge to the relentless advance of the Wehrmacht when the cowardly Jackal of Rome screamed for help. Our men, British and Anzacs, who fought in Greece and Crete in 1941, and went on fighting thereafter with the partisans of Hellas, know that Athens was always free.

A Growing Trust

THE National Trust has just issued its 49th Annual Report, and it is a token of these rigorous times that as the Trust's properties have increased so has the size of its pale green hand-book decreased.

The Trust now owns 108,000 acres and controls another 39,000 acres, and it is fully aware of the growing responsibilities of trusteeship.

Not the least of its problems concerns the future of the fine country houses which are in its keeping, for they were built as houses to live in and not as museum-pieces, and the purpose for which the Trust exists is to

preserve their essential character.

Another problem which increasingly faces the Trust is that of combining efficiency in farming and forestry with the greatest measure of public access; and it is good to know that in this connection it has revived its Estates Management Committee under the chairmanship of Dr G. M. Trevelyan, O.M. This committee is composed of experts in general estate matters, and it also represents evenly the interests of different geographical areas. In addition there is a panel of experts to advise on specialised subjects such as archaeology and geology.

Belgium's Money

THE Belgian Government have adopted a drastic plan to set their country once more on a sound financial basis and at the same time to render valueless the huge profits made in the black market.

For their own purposes the Germans had trebled the currency and credit of Belgium. The Government's decree has cancelled all bank notes over the value of 100 francs and replaced them by a new issue of which banks may only hand to their customers a strictly limited proportion. As much of the old currency has been hoarded the new decree will enable the Government to prevent profiteers from enjoying their ill-gotten gains, and gradually restore the country's money system.

PMG's OWN STAMP

MOST stamp collectors know the famous 2-cent Canadian stamp of 1898 which shows the world on Mercator's projection, with the British possessions printed in red.

Few stamps can have been designed by a Postmaster-General, but this one was. Its designer was Sir William Mullock, who has just died at the great age of 100. Sir William was Postmaster-General of Canada from 1896 to 1905, and it was on his motion that the Inter-Imperial Postal Conference adopted Penny Postage within the Empire, in 1898. Most Empire countries adopted this as a reciprocal Christmas gift to each other, and Canada at once issued the map stamp, marked Christmas, 1898.

Civil Aviation is Fully Fledged

FOR years the British air line companies and others having the interests of civil aviation at heart have been campaigning for Government recognition of its importance. At last they have succeeded. One of the principal recommendations of the Civil Air Transport Committee under Lord Beaverbrook is the establishment of a Ministry of Civil Aviation to take over control of civil flying from the Air Ministry.

Critics have long pointed out that service flying is entirely different from civil, and that the Air Ministry was wont to devote far too little energy to the development of the civil branch.

The Government have appointed Lord Swinton as Minister of Civil Aviation, holding Cabinet rank.

The new Minister will take over the staff of the Director-General of Civil Aviation at the Air Ministry, and he is likely to be Britain's representative at the British Commonwealth Conference on Air Transport at Montreal on October 23. This is to be followed by an International Conference in Washington on November 1, to which more than 50 nations have been invited.

WENDELL WILLKIE

AT the early age of 52, Mr Wendell Willkie has died.

Although he was Mr Roosevelt's opponent in the last Presidential election, he was at one with the President in the part America should play in the war, which she had not then entered.

The election over, he came to Britain to see for himself how things were with us in the blitz days of 1941, and the following year he flew, as the special representative of the United States, to see the war's progress in Africa, Russia, and China.

Mr Roosevelt has said of him: "The nation will long remember Wendell Willkie as a forthright American. Earnest, honest, whole-souled, he also had a tremendous courage. In this hour of grave crisis the country loses a great citizen through his untimely passing."

Wendell Willkie was a citizen of the world, and as such was a staunch friend of Britain.

The Ears of an Army

THERE is nothing like music to help a fighting army on its way, but seldom is it possible in modern war for this aid to be given.

However, when the victorious Canadians crossed into Holland from Belgium a regimental band was installed in the little frontier village of Putte. It was playing gaily as an armoured column and infantry made their way through crowds of villagers flying Belgian flags on one side of the street and Dutch flags on the other side.

Suddenly the band stopped playing. The reason? It was found that its encouraging notes were interfering with the sterner business of war, reducing the effectiveness of the vital ears of an army, the wireless in the armoured column! And the enemy was resisting but a short distance ahead.

LITTLE NEWS REELS

SIR WILLIAM JOWITT, M.P., is to be the first Minister of Social Insurance.

Melbourne University has received £10,000 from the Melbourne Argus towards the founding of a Chair of Fine Arts.

The Sea War Library Service, 3 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1, is appealing for 10,000 books for merchant seamen in a Mediterranean port.

Less than 24 per cent of Canada's vast war production goes to her own armed services.

More than 160,000 workers left Eire between 1940 and 1943, mostly for Great Britain.

British miners have given over £30,000 to the relief fund of the Czechoslovak mining village of Lidice which the Germans so wantonly destroyed.

CIVIL DEFENCE casualties due to enemy action are 2300 killed and 8300 seriously injured.

Newcastle-on-Tyne Education Committee have received from Lord Kemsley the offer of £500 per annum for the next seven years for the establishment of scholarships.

The value of waste recovered from dustbins in the city of Nottingham during the past year was £40,000.

Liberation News Reel

Moscow radio recently announced that the Germans had lost 123 generals in the 122 days since June 1.

British airborne forces now take into action in a Hamilcar glider, a 10-ton tank, the Tetrarch. The tank travels at 25 m.p.h. and can climb a slope with an angle of 35 degrees.

Major-General Paul Hawley, one of America's leading Army surgeons, revealed recently that blood from a civilian in America could be in the veins of a soldier on the Siegfried Line front within four days.

The Lady Cripps United Aid to China Fund has sent a total of £950,000 to Chungking.

General Bor-Komorowski, the commander of the Polish patriots who for 63 days fought desperately in the streets of Warsaw, is a prisoner in German hands.

Allied planes are now dropping propaganda bombs which can carry 80,000 newspapers to be scattered from about 3000 feet.

DURING a recent month over 46 million lbs of military cargo were flown from India to China.

Between August 15 and September 24 some 59,000 prisoners, including four generals, were taken by the First French Army and the F.F.I.

Youth News Reel

AMONG the many jobs undertaken by Dutch Boy Scouts since their liberation is an organised search in cellars and warehouses for furniture and other property which had been confiscated by the Germans.

Pat Potter, 14, and her sister Delma, 13, recently raised a Guide Company at Boxhill in Surrey, and at the first sale of work held by the company £50 was raised for war charities and the Guide International Service and company funds.

London Baptist companies of the Boys Brigade have undertaken to support their own missionary at Yakusu on the Congo. He is the Revd Douglas Chester-ton, a B.B. Old Boy.

Sheffield's great benefactor, Alderman J. G. Graves, has just announced his retirement from the City Council after nearly 50 years of public service.

Britain's biggest motor vessel, the 27,000-ton Georgic, which was badly damaged by German planes at Suez in 1941, was refloated and towed 2775 miles to Karachi.

The ban on the display of place names, such as name boards on railway stations, has been entirely removed.

MR WINSTON CHURCHILL, Mr Eden, and fifty civil and military experts have been conferring with Marshal Stalin, Mr Molotov, and leading Soviet experts at Moscow.

Every man, woman, and child in Britain is to have a pound of oranges by Christmas.

King Farouk has appointed Ahmed Maher Pasha Prime Minister of Egypt in place of Nahas Pasha; the new Government has expressed its friendship for the Allies.

Our M.P.s have decided to set up a new Anglo-French Inter-Parliamentary Committee to establish relations with members of the French Legislature when it comes into being, or, in the meantime, with the Consultative or any Representative Assembly.

Within 2½ hours of being wounded on the Burma front a soldier can be safe in the Base Hospital 200 miles from the front line.

A Belgian Army numbering 150,000 men has been reconstituted to fight until the defeat of the Nazis.

Canadian airmen to fight the Japs will be volunteers from among the existing R.C.A.F. squadrons.

The R.A.F. Lancasters which recently attacked the Tirpitz with 12,000-lb bombs flew 1750 miles, a record trip for such a bomb load, from bases in Russia.

THE German garrison in Dunkirk was granted a 64-hour truce to evacuate the 16,000 French civilians.

In three nights recently 116 trains in Holland and Germany were attacked by Allied aircraft.

A regular unit of the French Army, called Ile de France, has been formed from former members of the F.F.I.

R.A.F. Spitfires were operating from the mainland of Greece several days before the main Allied landings.

The R.A.F. bombing of the Dortmund-Ems Canal on September 23 stranded 110 barges.

A BRITISH padre in a Brussels hospital writes: "This afternoon the ward door burst open and in came eight Guides and a Scout with large baskets of fruit for the wounded. They are, of course, thrilled to put on that uniform again and wear it all day long."

Derek Cole, 13-year-old Patrol Leader of the 1st Radlett Group, has been awarded the Scout Gilt Cross for his gallantry in helping to rescue a boy in difficulties on a raft.

Members of a Boy Scout Troop in Flushing, New York State, collected and sold 150 tons of waste paper to pay for their holidays at a summer camp.

Their Victory Music Is Ready

DR RALPH VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS, our famous composer, has finished his victory anthem, just at the time when, at the other end of Europe, the great Soviet composer Shostakovich is finishing his Victory Symphony.

At this moment Allied troops are hanging out their washing on the Siegfried Line, thus justifying, after five years, the first British popular song of the war. It is with a grim humour that we may now recall that just as our own men, after the victories in North Africa, adopted the Nazis' popular ditty, the lilting Lili Marlene, so German officers after

the fall of France used to amuse themselves by playing the captured music of the British washing-song on the pianos in their French billets.

But actually this war has produced few songs to compare with those of the last war. Tipperary still greets the soldier of 1944 as he drives through liberated cities. But his own best-loved favourite is surely Pack Up Your Troubles, that sterling song of comfort which saw his father through Ypres and the Somme and the Hindenburg Line, and is now carrying him into the Siegfried Line to peace once more.

HOME, SWEET HOME

A CANARY owned by a Ramsgate family refused to sing a note during its four-year stay at Warrington, Lancashire, as an "evacuee." Now that it has been brought back to its old home it is singing again as blithely and melodiously as ever.

300 ROBERT BURNS CLUBS

WHEN the Robert Burns Federation held its annual conference in Glasgow recently delegates representing the Dominions, America, India, and China were present. It was reported that the Federation now consists of over 300 clubs with almost 30,000 members. During the past year fourteen new clubs were formed, including one in New York.

It was stated that 25 Education Committees had agreed that the Scottish literature competition, in which some 20,000 schoolchildren took part last year, should be thrown open to pupils attending 2000 schools in Scotland next year.

FOR HER POOREST CHILDREN

AS one of its immediate post-war plans the Edinburgh Corporation has purchased the 14½-acre estate of St Katharine in the city for the erecting of a complete children's unit for all those who come within the care of the Public Assistance Department. Buildings are to be erected to meet the needs of 700 children, but meanwhile the mansion house has been converted into suitable sections, including a dormitory, a play parlour, a vitaglass sun parlour, and so on, to accommodate fifty. Later this mansion will be transformed into an administrative centre.

SCHOOL FILMS

THE day cannot be far off when the kinema projector will be found in every school. Many schools have already proved its worth.

The Ministry of Education has just issued to local education authorities a most attractive list of films which are available to schools. Some of the films, dealing with human geography and biology, have been produced by the British Council for use in schools overseas, but they are also available for home schools in both sound and silent versions. There are numerous others, dealing with the life and work of the countryside which the Ministry of Information has made for the Ministry of Agriculture. These are sound films.

By applying to the Central Film Library, Imperial Institute, South Kensington, schools may have the free loan of any of these films.

COLD WATER!

THE "latest" discovery of certain American scientists is a cold hip bath which, they claim, has remarkable health effects. It improves eyesight, reduces fatigue, and makes for greater alertness. After such baths, they say, telephone operators work more briskly, motor drivers master long journeys without falling asleep at the wheel; and sentries and patrol men are keener.

This tonic water, however, which is claimed as a completely new idea in America is, writes a young Scottish correspondent, a custom as ancient as the hills north of the Tweed—and elsewhere, we might add.

FOR THE PACIFIC WAR

IT was stated recently in Washington, by Mr James Forrestal, US Navy Secretary, that top production priorities had been given to a new type of assault and cargo vessel, able to transport battle units direct from American loading points to Pacific objectives. Mr Forrestal has appealed to shipbuilders for the delivery of five every two days.

POSTAGE DUE, AND CREDIT, TOO

IT is said that nearly 40 million envelopes a year are used at least twice, and that is fairly good report for a once-so-wasteful nation. But we doubt if any envelope has had a longer career than one used by Trevor Phillips of Nottingham and Stuart Freedman of Kensington. No fewer than 58 times this same envelope carried their letters to and fro, until one day, already overloaded with labels, it bore the extra burden of a penny postage due stamp.

Fifty-eight Not Out—fifty-nine Out! But it was great fun, as well as a fine example, and the boys have started a new envelope on what they hope will prove an even longer career.

The Treasure Under the Hill

A FEW hours after the liberation of Maastricht it was revealed that, buried 150 feet under a hill about a mile outside the town, lay one of the most valuable collections of pictures in the world. Eighteen hundred paintings from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam were in an air-conditioned vault with three feet of concrete as a roof. They were under the charge of two Dutch officers who had been with them since they left the museum.

Among this collection of great masters, concerning whose fate the world has been wondering for over four years, is Rembrandt's Night Watch. Here is the story of this picture's flight from the danger of German "protective measures."

Taken to a certain castle on

the shores of the Zuyder Zee some time before the invasion, the Night Watch was removed again secretly on the third day after the Germans' arrival. The destination was not disclosed, but it became known that the journey had proved difficult, with roads jammed with military traffic and cattle evacuated from flooded regions. Once the lorry with its precious load was threatened by a swooping enemy plane, and at another not-to-be-forgotten moment it had looked as if the vehicle with its high load would not pass under a certain road bridge. A dozen men were called on to board the lorry to increase the weight and depress the springs. After that it just cleared the arch with half an inch to spare!

THE FLYING CHICKS

AMONG the many peaceful tasks for the aeroplane after the war will be that of carrying chicks. Young chicks are too delicate for journeys by train if they are to travel in numbers; but the problem of their transport has been met by air cargo planes from Chicago to San Francisco.

These planes travel at heights from 5000 to 12,000 feet, and an even temperature is maintained throughout the journey over mountain and plain. The long trip has been made with the loss of only one chick out of many hundreds carried.

REMEMBERING ROMANY

AS a tribute to Romany, the late Revd G. Bramwell Evens, famous for his BBC nature talks, the authorities at Wilmslow, in Cheshire, are contemplating a special Romany Walk within their boundaries.

Romany's famous caravan now stands in a tree-lined glen near his home at Wilmslow, and is on view to the public every Saturday afternoon.

TINTACK TACTICS

SOME very strange tactics are used during this war and stranger still are some of the schools where these tactics are taught. One of these is the US Air Force's school at Orlando, in Florida, where men spend much of their time in thinking out ways of puncturing enemy tyres. Here air crews are trained to drop crates of scientifically designed barbs on enemy roads. The contents of each crate cover an area of 100 yards in diameter, and woe betide any enemy convoy along that route.

FRIEND SPARROW

THE chirpy little sparrow is not always looked upon with friendly eyes, and because of this we have been specially interested in two facts revealed to us by the Secretary of the Scottish Society for the Protection of Wild Birds.

He informs us on good authority that a pair of sparrows in feeding their young will take as many grubs in a day as would eat up half an acre of green corn in a week; and, further, that cases are known of the extermination of the sparrow resulting in the following year in the destruction of almost every green leaf by caterpillars.

These are, indeed, good words for the sparrow.

BETTER TEETH

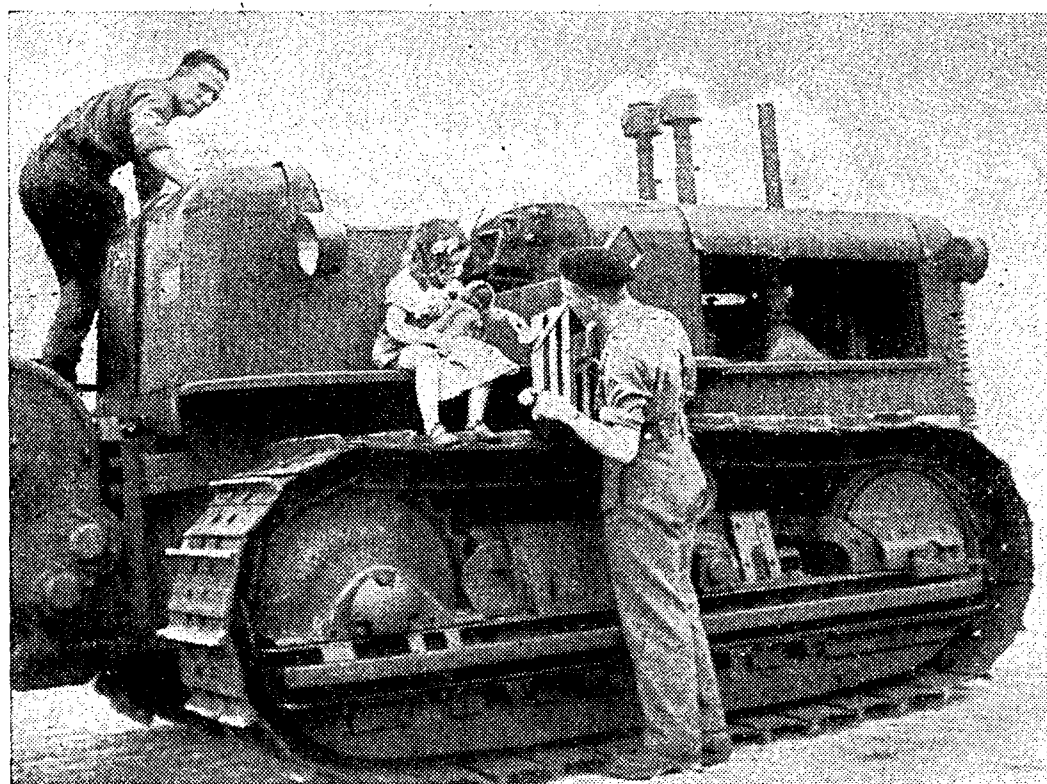
IT appears that the little people who have joined us since the war began have better teeth than those who came earlier.

According to the School Medical Officer of Bury St Edmunds, Dr Ernest Stork, the five-year-olds now entering school have perfect teeth without any sign of caries; and among the reasons he suggests are a reduction in sweets available to young children and the improved nutritional quality of wartime bread.

THE SEA CIRCUS

A RECENT letter to a newspaper, written from a Surrey urban centre, bore the name, The Longships. That strange title is matched by the name of a seaside bungalow owned by friends of the C N. Like its fellows, it has both name and number. It is number 45 of its series; its name is White Horses, in reference to the foamy tops of the waves of the sea it overlooks.

When he was last there the owner heard passing visitors speculating on the meaning of the bungalow's name. "Oh, look, 45 White Horses; I wonder what that means," said one. Her companion was ready with an explanation. "I expect," he said, "that the people living there are circus proprietors!"



The Handy Man During a break from work this Royal Marines mechanic finds time for another important job—a repair to the push-cart of a friend.



A Helping Hand

Two British soldiers help an elderly Dutch lady of a village near Eindhoven to carry her belongings to a place of safety

THE GUIDE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

MORE than 400 women, leaders in the Guide Movement, have been trained or are in training to work as teams in relief work in post-war Europe.

To help in the work of feeding, clothing, and doctoring homeless people in Europe women from all parts of the Empire have volunteered to join the Guide International Service.

The latest arrivals from the Empire are Miss Ferrand, a schoolteacher from Kenya, and Dr Meredith Ross, who was released from the Australian Air Force to join one of the medical teams.

The first GIS team is already in the Middle East, and two more, one an all-medical team, are due to leave this country almost immediately.

In the meantime, women between 21 and 50 are training busily in every part of Great Britain. In many of the English counties week-end training camps have been organised for those who are working during the week in factories, schools, and hospitals. When the call comes all are prepared to work abroad for not less than 12 months, possibly for several years, earning between five and ten shillings a week pocket-money.

A Volunteer is expected to be versatile, and in most training

camps women are instructed in agricultural work and First Aid, as well as numerous jobs such as mending shoes, cooking out of doors for 300 people, roof repairing, and so on.

Before a GIS team is ready for work abroad each member must receive final training in a special Test Camp. To pass the Endurance Tests a Volunteer must be able, among other things, to trek over rough country for long distances, helping to pull a loaded two-wheel cart for as long as six hours without food. At night she is expected to sleep rough, in the open, in a stable, or sometimes in a haystack.

To pay for the training of these relief workers and to maintain them in the field with proper equipment, an Emergency Fund of over £32,000 has already been raised by Guides of the Empire. Most of this money has been earned by their own work, in small amounts as payment for cooking, gardening, sewing, and by organising small fêtes and entertainments.

The Guides have set themselves to earn the vast sum of £100,000 by St George's Day, 1945, and they are determined to raise the entire sum by their own efforts, and with the help of grown-ups who were Guides in their youth.

Votes For Frenchwomen

NOT much notice was taken, when General De Gaulle made his first broadcast from liberated France, of one piece of news he gave which swept away a web of prejudice in a single sentence. There would be a general election in France, said De Gaulle, at which all her men and women would vote.

Just as it took the last war to bring about this reform in Britain, so it has taken this war to bring it about in France.

Frenchmen were strongly opposed to votes for women even five years ago. Some Frenchwomen advocated the new franchise warmly, but most were apathetic, and quite a large number opposed it. Politics in France,

they said, were too corrupting for women. But the Frenchwomen who wanted the vote maintained that they would be able, by its use, to make politics clean, as they should be.

De Gaulle is said to be no politician, but just a patriot. It appears that in offering the vote to women, he means to pay the best tribute he can find to their magnificent work in the Resistance Movement. They took an equal share, by their work underground against the hated Boche, in freeing their beloved France, facing every danger and hardship equally with their menfolk. De Gaulle offers them an equal share with their men in the upbuilding of the New France.

Drying Penicillin With Electrons

EVERY day in many a way penicillin grows better and bigger.

After Sir Alexander Fleming first found at St Mary's Hospital the microscopic fungus from which he derived it, the discovery remained for years a scientific curiosity. Then it grew to a world-wide remedy in a few months, and now it is prepared in increasing quantity in America as well as in Great Britain as a war medicine for the fighting men of the Allies. But it is always of slow growth, awaiting purification and increase of potency, as well as the great day when it can be made chemically for the use of all and sundry who need it.

Purification which increases the potency of penicillin has brought it to a standard of 40,000 Oxford units to a cubic centimetre of the solution in which it is held; but a potency of 100,000 units is hoped for. Heating of the solution to reduce its volume is hopeless, because heat destroys the effectiveness of the penicillin: so the solution has lately been evaporated in a high vacuum at freezing point. But now a better way has been found. The penicillin is dried by electronic radio frequency; and it is so concentrated that it can travel in smaller bulks.

CAGGING

IN olden days to "cag" meant to insult. In our times, it seems, the word has gained a much pleasanter meaning.

A new club, called the King Alfred, has been opened in London for officers of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and of the Merchant Service; and Mr A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking there, has expressed the hope that after the war these heroes will meet at the Club to have a cag over the great events in all the seas in which they are at present engaged.

A cagger, one who cags, is a seaman "yarning," telling his adventures, having a jaw, a gossip, a confab, a chat, an anecdotal conversation. The word in this sense is new to non-seafaring folk, and the dictionary does not note it. Words are always changing their meanings. For example, our ancestors little dreamed that "gossip" would ever mean chit-chat, and a gossip a little-tattler, a slandering mischief-maker. Originally the word meant a godparent at a baptism, or an intimate friend.

A friend from across the Tweed tells us that Scottish members of the King Alfred Club are unlikely to describe their chats there as cagging. When a Scot sits down to a friendly talk he declares that he is having a wee crack.

An Axis Giant

AT the World's Fair in America not so many years ago, Jakob Nacken was one of the attractions. The remarkable thing about this young German from Dusseldorf was his height, for he stood 7 feet 3 inches in his socks.

Today, he is the tallest soldier in captivity, for we took him outside Calais the other day while he was serving with a gun crew. His captor, photographed beside him, seemed to be little more than half Jakob's height!

The EDITOR'S TABLE

The Power of the Press

THE Freedom of the Press throughout the world, with free access to sources of information, was the ideal set forth by Mr William Redfern in a recent address to the Institute of Journalists. He suggested that guarantees to this effect should be incorporated in the international security plan. Mr Redfern claimed that the public spirit of the Press during the war had been exemplary, and that it had earned the right to be reckoned as an integral factor in the maintenance of peace.

Journalists today recognise no higher interest than the stimulation of good feeling and fellowship between nations, and a world free Press would, we agree, do very much to promote international friendship and understanding.

DESIGN FOR LIVING

IT is refreshing to hear a prominent civil servant (Sir Thomas Barlow, chief of the clothing department, Board of Trade) decrying the lack of artistry in many towns in this country and urging that industry must provide the artist with status, prospects, and security.

Sir Thomas said this when announcing that the Government are to set up a body to improve designs in clothing and many other things.

Material possessions are of little worth unless art and ingenuity combined have made their maximum contribution. What would monuments of the past have been without the artist behind them?

We hope that this outlook of the Government will extend to houses. In no material sphere is art more necessary.

CARRY ON

THE TRUE PATRIOT

HE who undertakes an occupation of great toil and great danger for the purpose of serving, defending, and protecting his country is a most valuable and respectable member of society, and if he conducts himself with valour, fidelity, and humanity, and amidst the horrors of war cultivates the gentle manners of peace and the virtues of a devout and holy life he most amply deserves, and will assuredly receive, the esteem, the admiration, and the applause of his grateful country; and, what is still of greater importance, the approbation of his God.

Bishop Porteus

Sunshine and Shade

MOST of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in our own sunshine.

Emerson

BRITISH PROP.

SHORT films showing how London stood up to the flying bombs have been shown in Brussels. They were shots of "the real thing" and the films were received by the Belgian audiences with great enthusiasm.

The everyday story of Tyne-side is also to be told in a documentary film. It is being made, not in a studio, but on the banks of the famous river of ships. It will be translated into many

To Match This Hour

"MAY the great God whom I worship grant to my country, and for the benefit of Europe in general, a great and glorious victory; and may no misconduct in anyone tarnish it." That is the heartfelt prayer of all devout Englishmen today, as it was the heartfelt prayer of a devout Englishman just before a decisive battle exactly 139 years ago.

The prayer was Nelson's, on the eve of Trafalgar, October 21, 1805.

JUST AN IDEA

As John Ruskin wrote, Every noble life leaves the fibre of it interwoven for ever in the work of the world.

Under the Ec

THE hedgehog, we are told, is a useful creature. Has its points.

AN MP says his father often threatened to give him a hiding. But he hid himself first.

LADY ASTOR says that if the new plans for Plymouth do not go through they will all be in the soup. She will boil with indignation.

NEARLY everybody in America is on the telephone. A whward when you want to use it.

PETER F WANTS KNOW



If the dim- us see th a new li

Boadicea the W

WHEN the British warrior Queen, Bleeding from the Roman

rods, Sought, with an indignant mien, Counsel of her country's gods,

Sage beneath a spreading oak Sat the Druid, hoary chief, Every burning word he spoke Full of rage, and full of grief:

"Princess! if our aged eyes Weep upon thy matchless wrongs,

Tis because resentment ties All the terrors of our tongues.

"Rome shall perish—write that word

In the blood that she has spilt; Perish, hopeless and abhorred, Deep in ruin as in guilt.

"Rome, for empire far renowned, Tramples on a thousand states; Soon her pride shall kiss the ground—

Hark! the Gaul is at her gates!

"Other Romans shall arise, Heedless of a soldier's name;

AGANDA FILMS

foreign languages, for showing abroad.

We are a modest nation—too modest, perhaps. It is high time that we showed the world something of our accomplishments, just as The March of Time and other films have told of America's deeds.

Our prestige is high. Suitable British documentary films for showing in other countries will help to preserve it.

VICE VERSA

A FRIEND of the C N writes from a little country town to tell us of a queer effect of the housing shortage.

In a side street is an old private house which was turned into a shop many years ago—not an unfamiliar sight. Next door to it is a normal shop which had been empty for some time. Now the faded advertisements have been removed from the shop-window, curtains put up, the counter and fixtures taken out, and the shop has become the front room of a private house for new tenants.

So there they stand side by side—house turned into shop and shop turned into house.

"tor's Table

ICK TO A CONJURER turned his car into a brick wall. Well, we heard of a hat that became a lady.

A MAN says he doesn't believe in backstairs influence. Perhaps he lives in a bungalow.

MALVERN still exhibits its old stocks. So do some London shop-keepers.

A COUNCILLOR declares that he has moved many resolutions. But not always the Council.

'arrior Queen

Sounds, not arms, shall win the prize,
Harmony the path to fame.

Then the progeny that springs
From the forests of our land,
Armed with thunder, clad with wings,
Shall a wider world command.

Regions Caesar never knew
By posterity shall sway;
Where his eagles never flew,
None invincible as they."

Such the bard's prophetic words,
Pregnant with celestial fire,
Sounding as he swept the chords
Of his sweet but awful lyre.

He, with all a monarch's pride,
Set them in her bosom glow;
Rushed to battle, fought and died;

Lying, hurled them at the foe,
Tuffians, pitiless as proud,
Gave awards the vengeance due;

Empire is on us bestowed,
Hame and ruin wait for you!

William Cowper

Moscow Calling London

WHEN a Daily Telegraph correspondent in Russia recently phoned his head office in England he was making the first direct telephone call from Moscow to London.

Before the war telephone calls between the two countries went through Berlin. At the beginning of this year a radio-telephone service was opened between Moscow and Washington, and now the third link between the three great enemies of Nazi Germany, champions of freedom, has been completed.

This linking of the capitals is a symbol of Allied unity in a solemn determination to exterminate Fascism. May it also be a symbol of the everlasting unity of three great nations.

Tweedledum or Tweedledee?

THERE was something of the spirit animating the immortal duel between Tweedledum and Tweedledee in the action of the German commander at Calais.

Having secured a 24 hours' truce for the evacuation of civilians, he declared that his forces would fight to the last man. But this, it proved, was a mere pose; all he really desired was a brief token battle, a formal renewal of the strife, to show his superiors that, however short its duration, he really had fought on before surrendering.

We recall the incident between the two little brothers.

"Of course you agree to have a battle?" said Tweedledum. "I suppose so," Tweedledee replied. "We must have a bit of a fight, but I don't care about going on long—what's the time now?" said Tweedledum. Tweedledee looked at his watch and said "Half-past four." "Let's fight till six, and then have dinner," said Tweedledum.

JUSTICE

It often falls in course of common life,
That right long time is overborne of wrong;
Through avarice or power, or guile, or strife,
That weakens her, and makes her party strong.
But justice, though her doom she do prolong,
Yet at the last she will her own cause right.

Edmund Spenser

A Crime Against Mankind

IF ever I were to do something useful for my country, but harmful to Europe and mankind, I should look upon it as a crime.

Montesquieu

ENGLAND'S PEOPLE

O ENGLAND, model to thy inward greatness,
Like little body with a mighty heart,
What mightst thou do, that honour would thee do,
Were all thy children kind and natural.

Shakespeare

The Fungus at the Fête

AN exhibition of edible and useful fungi is seldom part of a garden fête, but one has just been held at Oxshott in Surrey, and interesting it proved.

Local children sent nearly half of the specimens, and among them was the Fairy Ring Champignon, which can be pickled or powdered, and is delicious stewed. There was also the Warty Cap, or Blusher, which makes a good pale ketchup, and the Horn of Plenty once sold in Covent Garden. The Sheathed Agaric was there from the woods and roadsides, perhaps to be cooked with margarine in a casserole after the show; and from the base of a pine in Oxshott Woods came the flavoursome Sparassis, looking like pictures we have seen of a human brain. Among the other edible fungi on view were the Lawyers' Wigs, which grow on gritty ground and yield an ink with which it was once proposed to print banknotes; the Edible Boletus which the French call Cep, and which (in peacetime) can be eaten as a sweet with lemon juice and sugar; and, best-flavoured of all, the Parasol Mushroom, the tallest that grows.

Puff Balls were there, too, edible when young, and once used when old for stopping bleeding; the Polydore from the birch trees, which has similar uses nowadays and is good for corn pads and stopping razors, though not now used as snuff. Pounded Polydore is called amadou, and cut into strips is used by anglers for drying artificial flies. The most curious fungus in the show was the Daedalea Quercina, the natural curry-comb occasionally used for cleaning horses with tender skins.

Some poisonous fungi were on show as a warning, among them the white-spotted scarlet Fly Agaric which the Vikings are said to have eaten to send them fighting-mad. It has been used in religious rites by savage tribes, and was once recommended for epilepsy, ringworm, and scrofula, and more recently as a fly poison.

There is no hard-and-fast rule by which we may distinguish edible from poisonous fungi, but exhibitions such as this help us to get to know what they look like, and it is interesting to recall also that one formed part of the last show of the Royal Horticultural Society.

YOUTH HOSTELS IN SCOTLAND

EIGHTY new Youth Hostels, with a total of 5000 beds, are to be opened in Scotland immediately conditions permit. This big development was agreed to by the Council of the Scottish Youth Hostel Association meeting in Edinburgh recently. These new hostels will complete a chain which stretches across Scotland from Solway Firth to Pentland Firth, and will double the number of beds in the Scottish Hostels. There are now 30,000 members of the SYHA, a total very much above the pre-war level.

The plans for extension are based largely on the belief that after the war there will be a great extension of the International Youth Hostel movement.

THE CRUMBLING NEW ORDER

As the climax of the war draws nearer the thoughts of Allied statesmen turn more and more to the problems of the Peace. In many ways it is more difficult to make a successful peace than to make a successful war. History has proved this time after time.

One of the great problems of this peace will be helping Europe to recover from the chaos which will result when the German military machine finally breaks down. So closely is the industry and trade of the Continent bound up with the fate of the Reich that the collapse of Nazism inevitably means the shattering of almost the whole European economic system.

Four years ago Walther Funk, German Minister of Economics, announced with a fanfare of trumpets the establishment of the Nazi "New Order" in Europe. The whole of Europe, according to him, was to be organised as a single economic unity. It was to be as if no national frontiers existed. Every part of the Continent was to be adjusted carefully to take its place in the Grand Plan. Europe would be, as one Nazi newspaper described it, "a great cathedral in which each part is beautifully fitted in the whole."

Napoleon's Dream

Hitler is not the first conqueror to devise a New Order for the Continent. Napoleon also dreamed of a United States of Europe stretching from Gibraltar to the Vistula. Napoleon included all the nations of Europe in his Grand Empire, and he went so far as to create Departments of State controlled by Prefects of Europe to carry out his purpose; but before his dream could be made reality the nations had risen in revolt against him, and the rapidity of his fall showed on what insecure foundations his Empire was built.

What a French emperor aimed at a German dictator in part accomplished. Hitler had four years to organise his New Order and his plans were carried out with typical Teutonic thoroughness. According to the German "blue print" for the new Europe each country should produce only the goods for which it is best adapted. For instance, France (except the industrial north-east), Denmark, Holland, East Poland, and the countries of south-eastern Europe were to be devoted almost exclusively to agriculture. They were to be merely peasant states. The

Reich itself was to include the great iron field of Alsace-Lorraine, the steel industry of Luxembourg, the manufactures of Western Poland and Czechoslovakia. Everything was to be controlled from Berlin.

The much-heralded New Order of Hitler therefore stands revealed for what it is. With the sources of supply and production of the six basic materials—coal, iron and steel, oil, potash, and aluminium—in her possession, the Reich would control practically all the industry of Europe. Round her would be grouped a ring of satellite countries whose inhabitants would be merely hewers of wood and drawers of water. As these countries had no industrial resources they would be unable to manufacture arms, and so Germany's dominance could not be challenged.

Nor was the great international trade plan for Europe to be carried out on terms of equality to all. "We are going to do business solely on the basis of German advantage," said Hitler on February 23, 1941. Satellite countries were to find to their cost that the New Order simply meant the exploitation of Europe for the benefit of Germany.

Before the tide of war turned against him Hitler controlled, directly and indirectly, the lives of 300 million people. For all of them a place must be found in the post-war Europe. The statesmen of the Allies must be prepared for this problem. After the first urgent task of feeding and clothing the starving and impoverished peoples is completed, the economic framework of Europe will have to be built up afresh, and this time on the basis of fair-dealing, justice, and equality.

Eight-Acre Skylight

THE glass roof of Glasgow Central Station, which is Scotland's biggest skylight, extending over more than eight acres, is being replaced.

On the outbreak of war the 40,000 panes of heavy glass were removed and carefully stored. Since that time most of the roof of the station has been covered by a black-out of asbestos sheeting.



THE TEMPESTUOUS DUCHESS

THE 18th of October marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Sarah, famous wife of our indomitable Prime Minister's indomitable ancestor, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough.

Born at Holywell, St Albans, in 1660, and attached to the Court of the future James the Second and his consort, Sarah Jennings became the intimate friend of the princess who was later the reigning Queen Anne. Beautiful, gifted, and with a will of manlike force and tenacity, Sarah, when 16, fell in love with the handsome young John Churchill, ten years her senior, and, after a stormy courtship, married him secretly when she was 18. Possessing boundless influence over the Princess Anne, she was able in the hour of crisis to persuade her to take sides with the Prince of Orange, our future William the Third, against her father, James the Second, when the nation rose in arms against him.

When Anne became Queen the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough attained a status in the country almost without parallel for persons not of royal rank. The Duke, with his tremendous victories in the battles of Blenheim, Ramillies, and Malplaquet, moulded European kings, princes, and armies to his will. In effect more a queen than her sovereign, the Duchess ruled the Queen, the Court, and the Government. The Ministry depended upon her support, and she disposed of State offices at pleasure. To the weak, ill-educated Anne she was indispensable. Officially Groom of the Stole, Mistress of the Robes, Keeper of the Privy Purse, and much else, the Duchess used playfully to call the Queen Mrs Morley, and was addressed in turn by the Queen as Mrs Freeman. Sarah could scold as well as counsel, as on

the day when she wrathfully exclaimed to her sovereign, "Don't you answer me!"

Political enemies at length delivered the Queen from the imperious Duchess who, with the Duke, was for a time in heavy disgrace, though he was eventually reinstated in his high military command. She outlived him 22 years, completing the building of stately Blenheim which, in a lovely historic Oxfordshire park, 13 miles in circumference, was the gift of the nation to the Duke. She was a woman of many feuds but of still more benevolences, and when, aged 84, she was at last laid to rest, it was found that she had forgotten no one, not even the humblest of her servants. She sleeps at Blenheim, with the Duke ("my ever dear Lord Marl"), whose body, at her death, was removed to the family seat from Westminster Abbey.

Scotland's National Parks

THE Forestry Commission of Scotland have a scheme by which at least one national park will be created during each of the first ten years of peace. Scotland presents two immediate sites for these parks, one in Cairngorms and the other in Glen Affric.

Each park would be equipped with youth hostels and camping sites, and would be open to all. Hundreds of hikers, cyclists and motorists would be attracted to such spots.

That this plan is not a mere dream is shown by the fact that several competent planners have already been appointed for these National Parks.

Maps and Their Makers

British Maps and Map-makers. By Edward Lynam (Collins, 4s 6d).

MAPS are fascinating things to most people, and even the others must admit that they are a great help to an understanding of the war news.

In this new book, one of the popular Britain in Pictures series, Mr Edward Lynam, who is Superintendent of the Map Room in the British Museum, traces in text and pictures the development of maps from the very earliest days to the familiar productions of the Ordnance Survey of our time. The illustrations include eight beautifully-printed colour plates, and one of these shows part of the first map to represent England separately since that of Claudius Ptolemy in 168 A.D. It was made in 1250 by Matthew Paris, a Benedictine of St Albans, and his pupils.

"It seems that Matthew's map was not intended to be wholly accurate. Its main object was to show English pilgrims—and perhaps also Crusaders and troops bound for France—their shortest route to Dover, the port of embarkation for the Continental places of pilgrimage and for Normandy and Picardy. This purpose is clear from the many deliberate distortions in south, central, and south-eastern England."

Since that time map-making has become more of an exact science, and in the production of the Britannia in 1675, the first engraved atlas in which the statute mile was used throughout, we are told that the road distances were measured by an army of surveyors using "Perambulators" or wheels on which every revolution was registered as on a modern cyclometer. The Britannia was much imitated in the next hundred years. It is said that in interest and clearness its maps surpass even our modern motoring maps.

But the best maps of today are those made by our own Ordnance Survey, and Mr Lynam's final chapter tells of their wonderful work.

It is an absorbing story he has to tell.

VICTORY CLUB

THERE is to be a Victory Club in the centre of London for all men and women who have served the United Nations. An appeal by the Duke of Gloucester has been launched at the Mansion House, London, for the raising of a sum of £1,000,000, and negotiations for the acquisition of a freehold site are in progress.

The club will be open to all ex-Service men and women of the British Empire; and members of the Allied naval, military, and air forces will be welcomed as honorary members if and when they visit London after the war.

This admirable scheme is not only a fitting practical tribute to those who have died for their country, but it will provide a means of bringing together in happy comradeship all the serving men and women who survive the struggle. Furthermore, it will be a "home-from-home" at which the non-Londoners may stay cheaply and in comfort.

Good luck to the Victory Club!



Firemen Builders

Men of the NFS have been helping to repair London houses damaged in flying-bomb attacks. These two skilled men are working on a North London roof.

THE FUTURE OF BRITISH SHIPPING

WE all know that the British Mercantile Marine had a big share in saving us from the fate which Nazi Germany had in store for us. When final victory has been achieved, it is vital for future peace and prosperity that Great Britain shall sustain her sea-power, which depends as much upon our Merchant Navy as on the Royal Navy and the Fleet Air Arm. But to achieve this end plans need to be made with vision and care.

In a statement recently issued, the General Council of British Shipping have set out their victory plans for the British Merchant Navy.

We shall not succeed in carrying our share of world trade, the Council say, unless we have the right ships. To contemplate the permanent operation of a large volume of vessels built for war-time needs would be to invite disaster. Accordingly, the Council advocate a policy of sterilising unsuitable surplus ships and of building new ships of the right type for peacetime purposes as soon as possible. Thus, the Council say, unemployment among seamen and in the shipyards can be avoided.

The tremendous shipping demands made upon Great Britain by the war have upset the

economy of shipowning and have created a surplus in some types of ships and a shortage in others, those of about 2000 tons for example.

The Council propose that unsuitable surplus ships shall be divided into two classes: a strategic or break-up reserve (which would take off the market all ships which are or become surplus), and a commercial reserve (which would provide a margin of mercantile shipping for use only as and when necessary).

For our splendid Merchant Navy, as for many other vital services, the transition from war to peace will not be easy. But it must be faced, boldly and with an eye on all the factors involved. Our Mercantile Marine must be able to undertake its proper share in carrying our exports and imports over the Seven Seas and must not be squeezed out by foreign competition, otherwise the mistakes made after the last war, resulting in so much unemployment and distress, will be repeated.

Our Government is very much alive to this problem both on its human and material side, as the speech of Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport, proved when it was discussed in the House of Lords the other day.

France and Back on Half-a-Crown

TWO 17-year-old ATC cadets recently had a strange adventure after being told by their CO that they had to pass an "initiative test."

The CO suggested that they should take half-a-crown each and see how far they could get on it. So with packs on their backs they set off, having decided to try to reach Normandy. By obtaining rides on American lorries they reached the coast, where they spent the night in an ARP shelter.

The next day they made their way to the nearest port, where they clambered into a lorry which was about to be loaded on to a ship. When they revealed their plan to an American officer there was no trouble, as they had

expected; on the contrary, he "was very decent about it." The next day the convoy set sail with the two adventurers on board, and it was not long before the ships were anchored off the French coast. But as they had to get back to work in another three days the lads were getting a little anxious, so on a Duck they went ashore, where they were interviewed by a British lieutenant-commander who took a very official view of the whole affair and, rightly enough, was very angry.

But in the end he saw the humour of the situation and the cadets were finally placed on a liner and returned back to England. Quite a trip for half-a-crown!

BEDTIME CORNER

FREDDIE'S FEAST

FREDDIE FIELDMOUSE had a birthday;
One year old was he.
Winks, the Brownie, brought a present
Which was good to see.
"Look!" he cried. "One lighted candle
On a little cheese!
If I know your taste, dear Freddie,
This is sure to please."
"Rather so," said Freddie, beaming.
"Shall I ever cease
Eating things I am so fond of;
Cheese and candle grease?"



VICTORY MARCH

The Man and His Negro Servant

ONE day a man engaged a Negro servant. It was the first time he had ever seen a black man, and he thought his colour was due to the fact that he was not clean.

"Put him into a tub," he said to his other servants, "and scrub him until he is clean and white."

His servants set to work. They scrubbed and scrubbed, they washed and scoured, but it was no use. At last the Negro caught a cold and died.

Many people try to do impossible things through ignorance.

The Prayer Perfect

DEAR Lord! Kind Lord!
Gracious Lord! I pray
Thou wilt look on all I love
Tenderly today!
Weed their hearts of weariness;
Scatter every care
Down a wake of angel-wings
Winnowing the air.

Bring unto the sorrowing
All release from pain;
Let the lips of laughter
Overflow again;
And with all the needy
O divide, I pray,
This vast treasure of content
That is mine today!

James Whitcomb Riley

The Children's Newspaper, October 21, 1944

America's Alaska

BY THE CN CORRESPONDENT IN AMERICA

THE war has made the United States aware of the vast land she hardly knew she possessed—Alaska, the "great land." Bought in 1867 from Russia for over £1,500,000—a penny an acre—Alaska was one of the greatest bargains the United States ever made.

Ten times the size of England and Wales, and with a coast line of 27,000 miles, this northern land has scenic wonders, mineral and natural resources, fishery and fur-bearing riches, and enormous agricultural and economic possibilities.

The hard-surfaced Alaska Highway, with its steel-structure bridges, was completed as far north as Fairbanks on November 20, 1942. From Fairbanks to Nome, which looks out on Bering Straits, is only 600 miles, with all-the-year-round highway possibilities. Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, and East Cape, Siberia, are separated by a distance of only fifty-six nautical miles, with King Island midway, while the depth of Bering Straits averages only forty to sixty feet. It would not be an impossible feat to tunnel or bridge these straits.

Alaska is not only destined to be the short, skyline crossroads of nations to Asia and the Far East, but will some day see people travelling by automobile from New York to Paris, over that westward route. Alaska's aerial highways of the post-war world will link hitherto isolated people in bonds of fellowship. Great passenger and cargo planes, winging their way to Russia and to Asia over the top of the globe, are bound to make Alaska a port of call.

The people of Alaska, although of mixed origin, may be classified into four major groups: Indians in the south-western section; Aleuts, south-west; Eskimos, north-west; and whites, scattered throughout the territory.

Around the Aleutians Alaska suffers from a raw, wet, windy climate full of physical discomfort; north-western Alaska is an ice-box area; central Alaska, with its seasonal periods of hot and cold weather, has, indeed, more solar heat than the equator, due to the long summer days.

Alaska's agricultural and horticultural possibilities, with 30,000 square miles of arable land, challenge the interest of prospective farmers, and its economic possibilities are almost limitless. Agricultural developments will enable the territory to produce its own food and meat, instead of continuing to import £1,000,000 worth of food a year. Coal deposits and timber stands are more than ample to meet the territory's needs indefinitely. Mineral resources of gold, tin, iron, copper, nickel, chromite, platinum—have been barely tapped. Sea-food and trapping products total an annual yield of millions of dollars.

Alaska's present population of nearly 80,000 is an increase of thirty-five per cent since 1930. Matanuska Valley boasts about 1000 farmers on 135 farms, with the number of colonists in this region steadily increasing.

ACORNS WANTED

OUR oak trees are heavy-laden with their fruit this year, and it is well, for acorns are again wanted to augment the still-restricted supply of food for pigs and poultry.

The Ministry of Agriculture asks for the help of schoolchildren and all members of youth organisations in gathering as much as possible of this valuable crop. Farmers, and pig and poultry keepers should be asked about their requirements, and they will usually be able to provide the necessary sacks and transport. A fair price for a hundredweight of acorns in good condition is 5s to 7s 6d.

Three important things must be remembered by all collectors of these acorns, "graceful to the eye, and toys to childhood dear": obtain permission before entering private property; be careful to close all gates, and, above all, avoid damaging crops.

PLANNING THE YEAR'S WORK

AN annual budget setting out the numbers likely to be needed in our industries and other forms of employment in each coming year has been proposed by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress.

This man-power budget is the main new feature of a report concerned with plans to prevent unemployment after the war which is to be discussed at this month's Congress. In this budget man-power supply would be set against man-power requirements based on the probable amount of private expenditure on consumption and investment. To balance the budget the Government would then be able to take financial and other steps to influence employment on the lines indicated in their White Paper and to put in hand public works on a scale sufficient to employ all the remaining labour available.

This plan, it is believed, would reduce unemployment to a minimum, so that few able-bodied persons would receive money for doing nothing.

A Very Gallant Act

THE award of the Albert Medal, for distinguished acts of bravery, is of rare occurrence; but the King has just given the decoration to a boy of 14.

He is Geoffrey Riley, and the gallant act for which the award has been made took place on May 29, near Holmfirth in Yorkshire. Following a cloudburst the River Holme became a raging torrent and flooded surrounding country. Geoffrey saw an elderly lady who was taking refuge on a low wall from the rising floods, and he tried, without success, to rescue her by walking along the wall. He then entered the flood water, rescued the lady from the wall, which later collapsed, and, though not a strong swimmer, set out to bring her to safety. As Geoffrey was reaching the point of exhaustion his father went to his assistance. But the swirling flood waters were too much for them, and all three were swept into the river. Unhappily Geoffrey's father and the 76-year-old lady were drowned.

National Bread Makes Red Blood

THE findings of four doctors who have carried out a survey in Edinburgh have been published in the British Medical Journal.

The doctors point out that replacement of white flour by national wheatmeal flour has caused an increase in the amounts of iron, calcium, and vitamin B available in our national diet.

The National Bread has therefore been an important factor in the decrease of anaemia, because the lack of haemoglobin, causing simple anaemia, is made up for by this bread which has greatly increased the haemoglobin levels of Edinburgh schoolchildren under survey.

Haemoglobin is the colouring material which produces the red colour of blood.

The Right Kind of War

OVER £250,000 is being given by Britain to help the fight against leprosy in the British Colony of Nigeria.

In the old days leprosy seemed the most terrible and mysterious of diseases, and lepers were miserable outcasts without hope of recovery. But now, as a great expert recently said, "Leprosy is an entirely preventable disease. If the right methods were put into force in the various countries of the Empire, in the course of time this foul plague would disappear." Many people have been working for a long time now to make this come true, and the Colonial Governments spend as much money as their resources can afford on the running of treatment centres. Finally, the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, exactly 20 years old this year, is the central authority on research and treatment.

In the treatment of leprosy there are three main things to be remembered. First of all, the sufferers must be isolated from their healthy fellows, so that the infection is not spread. This is not as easy as it sounds, because people who still think of leprosy as an incurable disease would rather go into hiding than be branded as outcasts for ever, as they think.

If they go into a leper settlement in this frame of mind, the lepers are often resentful and despairing, and unlikely to get the full benefit from the treatment. So, in most of the British dependencies today, the going apart into leper colonies is a matter of the sufferers' own free choice. As they gain confidence, more and more lepers enter of their own accord, and they expect to be made better; that is in itself the first step to a successful cure.

The next thing to be done is to give the lepers the special medical treatment which, over a course of years, leads to recovery. But even this would be of little use without the third necessary condition of a healthy and happy life for the patients themselves. As far as possible the leper colonies do everything for themselves, from growing their own

foodstuffs to running their own entertainments.

There are still obstacles to be overcome in the leprosy campaign besides the disease itself. When one leper settlement was being started, for example, the doctor in charge could not understand why so few lepers came forward. He discovered later that all the people in the neighbourhood believed that there was a great hole inside the settlement into which the lepers were pushed and buried alive. But happily this kind of ignorance and prejudice is disappearing, as the colonial peoples see with their own eyes the benefits of treatment.

The war against leprosy would go on much faster if there were more trained staff and more money. The settlement staffs are often helped by the lepers themselves, and even the children can be useful as "temperature takers" at 9d a week pocket money. More and more men and women are being recruited from among the colonial peoples to help the European doctors.

More money is needed to pay for the extra staff and for the medicines and dressings they will use. This is where Britain is helping the colonial peoples, and the grant just made for leprosy control work in Nigeria is the largest yet.

Army Benevolent Fund

SERVICE and ex-Service men and women of the British Army will be helped financially if in need by a new fund, the Army Benevolent Fund, which has been created under the patronage of the King.

The War Office states that this is an entirely new fund, and is additional to the various regimental associations which already exist for the help of those who have served and are serving, and their dependants.

For some time the other two services have had benevolent funds and the small associations for the aid of the Army are quite inadequate for the huge Army of today.

Chest was raw with coughing until—



a dose of soothing 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup brought immediate relief and restful sleep.

'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup eases chest, throat and lungs and breaks up stubborn phlegm. It is delicious to take. Only half a teaspoonful will check a cough immediately. Buy a 1/9 bottle to-day. (Price includes Purchase Tax). Good for children too!—Insist on

'Pineate'
HONEY
COUGH-SYRUP

SHORTHAND
DUTTON ONE-WEEK SHORTHAND is accepted by the Services and examining bodies. Learn in 12 2-hour lessons. Send 3d. Stamps for First Lesson. Write Dept. C.N., 92-3, Great Russell St., W.C.1.
IN ONE WEEK

Walters
"Palm"
TOFFEE
—absolutely takes the palm for Value, Quality and Charm

WELGAR
SHREDDED WHEAT
GIVES YOU MOST FOOD VALUE...!
Made by The Shredded Wheat Co. Ltd., WELWYN GARDEN CITY, HERTFORDSHIRE.



Mother! Child's Best Laxative is 'California Syrup of Figs'

Children love the pleasant taste of 'California Syrup of Figs,' and gladly take it even when bilious, feverish, sick or constipated. This laxative regulates the tender little bowels easily and safely. It sweetens the stomach and moves the bowels without cramping or over-acting.

Millions of mothers depend upon this gentle, harmless laxative.

Tell your chemist you want 'California Syrup of Figs,' which has full directions for babies and children of all ages.

Obtainable everywhere at 1/4 and 2/6.

THE BRAN TUB

REAL SAVAGES

"Do the fish in this stream bite?" asked the fisherman. "Bite!" exclaimed the local man. "They are so fierce that you will have to hide behind a tree while you are baiting your hook."

Rhyming Window

It is not easy to find a rhyme for the word window, but here is quite a good one:

Bold Robin Hood, that archer good,
Shot down fat buck and thin doe;
Rough storms withstood in thick greenwood,
Nor cared for door or window.

For Speed

CRIED the Candle, addressing the Stick,
"Strike a match and set fire to my wick."
But the stick answered, "No!
Striking matches is slow.
Try our small friend the Lighter
—he's quick!"

SO THOUGHTFUL

A FARMER offered a lift to an Irishman trudging wearily along carrying a heavy bundle.

"Why don't you put that on the floor?" said the farmer as the man sat in the cart with the load still on his shoulder.

"No," replied the Irishman. "Your old horse has got all he can do to pull me; I'll carry this."



It's never any trouble to get them to take their HALIBORANGE

Give children their Halibut Liver Oil this pleasant, easy way. Juice of fresh, ripe oranges masks the taste of Halibut Liver Oil and makes Haliborange delicious and gives them vitamins A, C and D all in one! Haliborange will help your family to retain summertime health right through the rain, fog and cold of winter. Taken in addition to the ordinary daily diet, it ensures that the system is having adequate vitamins A, C and D to maintain health at concert pitch.

Each teaspoonful of Haliborange contains 1950 units of vitamin A, 280 units of vitamin D, and 7 mg. of Ascorbic Acid (vitamin C).

From CHEMISTS ONLY 2/6 a bottle

Made in England by Allen & Hanburys, Ltd

HALIBORANGE

the nicest way of taking
HALIBUT LIVER OIL

An Onion Riddle

"Now listen, Snap," said Snip. "I have

A problem you must probe.
Why is an onion very like
The middle of the globe?"

Snap gave it up, which proved, of course,

His wits were little worth.

"Because it is," explained his friend,

"The scenter of the earth!"

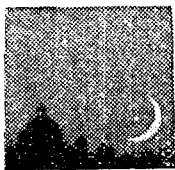
DEGREES OF PROGRESS

WHAT are the positive, comparative, and superlative degrees of getting on in the world?

Get on, get honour, get honest.

Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the east, and Saturn is in the south-east. In the evening Venus is low in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, October 21.



Tributes to Nelson

October 21 is Trafalgar Day, the anniversary of one of Britain's finest naval victories and of the death of Nelson, in 1805. This is what three famous poets said about the greatest of English sailors:

NELSON, Glory's favourite son.
Southey

Nelson, England's pride and treasure,
Her bulwark and her tower of strength.

Wordsworth

Nelson for ever—any time—
Am I his to command in prose or rhyme.

Browning

A SURE SIGN

"How do we know when winter is near?" asked the teacher.

"Please," answered little Betty, "it begins to get late earlier."

The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC programmes for Wednesday, October 18, to Tuesday, October 24.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Songs by the Edmunds Octet, conductor J. Edmunds, followed by Joey, the Budgetiger, a story by Antonia Ridge. 5.55 Prayers.

THURSDAY, 5.20 The story of the famous Bayeux Tapestry, by Morna Stuart—Part 4, The Battle of Hastings.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Scottish Counties, by Isabel Adam, a trip round the towns, villages, and shipbuilding yards of Dumbartonshire.

When the Toucan Spoke

A TOUCAN with inches of beak
By the birds was invited to speak,
But they soon cried "Oh dear!
With an accent so queer
Your oration amounts to a creak!"

Nature News

THE house-martin gets ready to leave us, while the hooded crow comes back and the fieldfare and the woodcock are also among the new arrivals for the winter.

All the small rodents, like the short-tailed vole and the long-tailed field mouse, are collecting food and storing it in holes and crevices for the coming cold months.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Obliging Badger. The wasps buzzed ceaselessly in and out of the hole in the bank.

"Those pests will spoil my fruit," grumbled Farmer Gray. "We'll destroy this nest tomorrow, Don."

Bent upon the wasps' destruction, a surprise awaited them next day. A large cavity had been scraped from the bank; wasps hovered forlornly around the site of their recent home.

"Badger's work," commented Farmer Gray. "Brock's liking for wasp-grubs has saved us considerable trouble."

"Don't they get stung?" inquired Don.

"No," replied the farmer. "Brock's coat is nearly four inches long, and his skin's thick. The wasps cannot penetrate it."

The Traveller Fish

THE climbing perch of India, plentiful in the Ganges, is noted for its odd clambering ways.

This fish usually does its land travelling by night or in the early morning, but it has been seen on the roads in the heat and dust of midday.

It has a complex form of gills in which it can seal enough oxygen-giving moisture to furnish it for its land travels.

Jacko Takes a Bath



JACKO'S recent fishing expeditions had resulted in many long waits but few catches, and he thought that angling from the middle of the pond might be worth trying. But how to get there without a boat—that was his problem. Borrowing a small bath from the kitchen, he dashed down to the pond, and was triumphantly launching it when he overbalanced and fell head first into the water. Mother Jacko and Baby Jacko arrived just in time to see the big splash, and it was a crestfallen fisherman who returned home that day—wet through, in disgrace, and still without fish.

ROSES FOR CHRISTMAS

IN late autumn there are sometimes a few buds left on the rose trees, and the best of these can be kept for Christmas.

Pick buds in which the petals are fairly well grown. Then, on a large dish put a layer of damp sand two inches deep. Into this push the stalks of the buds.

Put the flowers a little way apart and cover with upturned glass jam-jars. When all the buds are covered put the dish away in a dark place.

Look carefully at the buds every week or so, and clean any sign of mould away at once.

If the sand gets dry moisten it a little but do not make it too wet. Rosebuds will keep for many weeks stored like this. When wanted snip off a tiny piece from the end of each stalk and then put them in water.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

The Fifty Puzzle
L=50

Cow-l: tea-l:
anna-l: grave-l:
sea-l: bowl.

Jumbled Towns
Toulon, Rome,
Marseilles, Orleans
(or Salerno),
Chartres, Nantes.

HUMORIST
A SPORTS A
RS IDEALS
ATONE LAP
NOSE SITE
GOT OWNER
U L L A G E R S
E E G R E T E
G R E E T E R S

His teeth need YOUR care—

Mother, you can do something for your child for which he will thank you throughout his life. By taking proper care now you can ensure his having sound teeth when he grows up. Dentists advise the use of the one toothpaste containing 'Milk of Magnesia', which corrects acid-mouth—so often the cause of dental decay.

The toothpaste to ask for is Phillips' Dental Magnesia. Train your children to use it night and morning. They love its pleasant mild flavour. 1/1d. and 1/10½d.



Phillips' Dental Magnesia

* 'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

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